

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 CU-04

TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20 RSR-01 OMB-01 EB-11 PC-04

HEW-08 /130 W

----- 128533

R 061128 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9050

INFO ZEN/ AMCONSUL IBADAN 4641

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: MORE ON NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC)

REF : LAGOS 2708

SUMMARY : FMG HAS RELEASED DETAILS ORGANIZATION NYSC. AS THESE MEET MOST STUDENT DEMANDS, STUDENTS WILL FIND LITTLE SYMPATHY OR SUPPORT FOR FURTHER OPPOSITION. NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NUNS) MEETING CALLED FOR APRIL 14 TO DETERMINE STUDENT REACTION. UNLIKELY ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS NYSC SUFFICIENT TO BEGIN FULL- SCALE PROGRAM SUCCESSFULLY, BUT CLEAR FMG WILL GO AHEAD WITH SOME VERSION OF CORPS BY JULY. END SUMMARY.

1. FMG HAS RELEASED FURTHER DETAILS ON ORGANIZATION NYSC. MOST SIGNIFICANT DISCLOSURES INCLUDE (A) MEMBERS WILL BE PAID NAIRA 120 (\$180) PER MONTH, WITH TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE OF NAIRA 60 (\$90) PER YEAR AND NAIRA 1 (\$1.50) PER DAY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE DURING PERIOD OF ORIENTATION; (B) TERM OF SERVICE WILL BE ONE YEAR; (C) INITIAL MEMBERSHIP WILL BE MADE UP OF ALL NEW NIGERIAN UNIVERISTY FIRST DEGREE RECEIVERS
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UNDER 30 BUT WILL LATER BE EXTENDED TO ALL NIGERIAN GRADUATES INCLUDING FROM UNIVERSITIES ABROAD; () CORPS MEMBERS WILL BE PLACED " SUBJECT TO THEIR QUALIFICATIONS; (E) FREE MEDICAL CARE WILL BE PROVIDED, AND GOV' T WILL ASSIST MEMBERS TO FIND HOUSING; AND (F) INITIAL AND FINAL PHASES OF TOUR OF DUTY WILL BE DEVOTED TO " ORIENTATION AND EVALUATION".

2. POLICY BOARD FOR NYSC WILL BE DIRECTORATE WITH SECRETARIAT IN CABINET OFFICE. MEMBERS OF DIRECTORATE WILL BE: CABINET OFFICE PERMSEC (CHAIRMAN); EACH NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY VICE- CHANCELLOR; MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE; POLICE REPRESENTATIVE; REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIAN EMPLOYERS' CONSULTATIVE ASSOCIATION (NECA); REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF LABOR ; REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION; DIRECTOR OF NYSC (CHIEF EXECUTIVE); THREE PUBLIC MEMBERS CHOSEN BY GOWON (ONE OF WHOM MUST BE A WOMAN). BOARD WILL GOVERN ALL ASPECTS OF ASSIGNMENT AND TRAINING OF CORPS, AND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY STATE COMMITTEES WHICH WILL PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN EACH STATE.

3. ACTUAL DECREE ESTABLISHING NYSC WILL BE PROMULGATED " SOON. "

4. WITH STUDENTS ON VACATION AND SCATTERED, MOST STUDENT LEADERS TAKING CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE. NUNS MEETING CALLED FOR APRIL 14 BENIN TO CONSIDER NEW INFO AND DETERMINE REACTION.

5. COMMENT: IF FINAL DECREE CONTAINS CLAUSE MAKING NYSC VOLUNTARY AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, OUR VIEW THAT SITUATION WILL BE DEFUSED UNCHANGED. IN ANY CASE, PROGRAM NOW REPORTED APPARENTLY MEETS MOST MAJOR STUDENT OBJECTIONS (E. G. SALARY OFFERED, INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS, LITTLE LESS THAN STARTING CIVIL SERVICE RATE). ALTHOUGH STUDENTS WILL REMAIN BASICALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT ANY SERVICE CORPS, THEY CANNOT HOPE FOR ANY OUTSIDE SYMPATHY OR SUPPORT FOR THEIR CONTINUED OPPOSITION.

6. WE STILL DOUBT THAT ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS NYSC SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO FIELD EFFECTIVE LARGE- SCALE PROGRAM ENVISIONED BY FMG. AS GOV' T SEEMINGLY FEELS NEED TO UPHOLD POSITION IN FACE PREVIOUS STUDENT OPPOSITION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR FMG WILL GO AHEAD WITH PROGRAM BY

JULY. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS WILL TAKE
SHAPE OF SMALL PILOT PROJECT OR WHETHER FMG WILL RISK
LAUNCHING FULL NYSC WITHOUT ADEQUATE ADMINISTRATIVE
UNDERPINNINGS. FINAL EDICT MAY SOLVE PROBLEM BY PERMITTING
SUFFICIENTLY BROAD EXEMPTIONS FROM SERVICE TO REDUCE TOTAL
NYSC TO MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS.

DECON: 4-73

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS02781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730435/aaaahitiw.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LAGOS 2708
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971203
Subject: MORE ON NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC)
TAGS: PINS, NI
To: AF
IBADAN
KADUNA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005